



Southwest Coordinating Group



April 14, 2004

2004 Wildland Fire Season Memorandum

Directed to: New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group, New Mexico Zone Coordinating Groups, Dispatch Offices, National Forests, Bureau of Land Management Field Offices, National Park Units, Fish and Wildlife Refuges, New Mexico State Forestry Districts

From: Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group

Topic/Issue: New Mexico Zone Office Notification to the Air Quality Bureau of Prescribed Burns, Wildland Fire Use, and Wildfire

Timeframe: Effective immediately.

The SWCG advises that the zone dispatch offices should not be responsible for notifying the New Mexico Air Quality Bureau (AQB) of prescribed fires, wildland fire use and wildfire for the zone units.

As per the New Mexico Smoke Management Regulation it is the units responsibility to notify the Air Quality Bureau of prescribed fires and wildland fire use through the smoke database(wildfire smoke information will be gathered through the ICS 209 system). When zone dispatch offices report prescribed fires to AQB it can create a double-reporting situation. Having only the unit notify the Air Quality Bureau will reduce the chances of confusion. The main exception would be when zone offices enter the data in the AQB database for their host unit.

When possible, FMOs, AFMOs, burn bosses, ICs and other local fire personnel with direct knowledge of the fires should be entering the information for prescribed fires and wildland fire use into the AQB smoke database. AQB will be monitoring the ICS 209s for wildfire information. This will insure the best possible data, and relieve the units of having to pass smoke data to the zone dispatch offices.

This request applies only to smoke reporting to AQB - units should still notify the zone dispatch offices of their burns and smoke so that smoke impacts on the air sheds can be coordinated and smoke reports can be confirmed.

/s/ William C. Waterbury

William C. Waterbury, 2004-2005 Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group